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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/827,507	04/06/2001	Tri Minh Nguyen	81855.0008	6108

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HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.
500 S. GRAND AVENUE
SUITE 1900
LOS ANGELES, CA 90071-2611

EXAMINER

JARRETT, RYAN A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2125

DATE MAILED: 09/10/2003

8

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/827,507

Applicant(s)

NGUYEN, TRI MINH

Examiner

Ryan A. Jarrett

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 July 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2 and 5-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2 and 5-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 06 April 2001 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 5-8, and 22 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Drawings

2. This application has been filed with informal drawings, which are acceptable for examination purposes only.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1, 2, 5-20, and 22-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Thiel et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,381,509 in view of Goss U.S. Patent No. 6,236,901. Regarding claims 1, 2, 9-15, 18-20, and 22-25, Thiel et al. discloses a method of monitoring the manufacturing status of a machine comprising the steps of: assigning a machine identifier to a machine comprised of one or more components, each one or more components to be incorporated into the machine at one or more production stations, wherein each one or more production stations is assigned a production station identifier (col. 3 lines 23-36); inputting the machine identifier into at least one memory of a first computer; inputting a unit control identifier for each one or more components wherein the unit control identifier is linked to the production station

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identifier where the unit control identifier is input (col. 9 lines 13-27); inputting defect information for each one or more component into the memory at an inspecting station, wherein each inspecting station is assigned an inspecting station identifier, so that the defect information and the unit control identifier are linked to the inspecting station where the defect information is input and wherein the defect information includes at least one defect phenomenon (col. 9 lines 13-27); linking the stored unit control identifier and the stored machine identifier (col. 7 lines 19-23); outputting defect information which includes at least one of the machine identifier and the unit control identifier, wherein the machine history in manufacturing is traced later (col. 3 lines 43-47);

wherein the machine identifier and the unit control identifier are input by scanning bar codes assigned to the machine and the component (col. 4 lines 12-22); wherein said output is displayed on a second computer that is connected to the first computer through a network (Fig. 1); further comprising the step(s) of: inputting the time when said defect phenomena occurred (col. 1 lines 38-39); wherein said output is accessed in real time (col. 11 lines 6-12); wherein the information in the memory can be retrieved by selecting at least one of the machine identifier, the unit control identifier, the production station identifier and the inspection station identifier (inherent in col. 9 lines 13-27 since all are linked); wherein the information in said memory can be sorted by using at least one of the machine number, the unit control identifier, the production station identifier and the inspection station identifier (genealogy server/host computer inherently capable of this performing this task); wherein the output is printed out daily (implied in col. 6 lines

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57-60, col. 13 lines 10-12); further comprising the step of: calculating the number of detected defects (col. 12 line 59 – col. 14 line 43); wherein said outputting process comprises the steps of: counting the number of times of said defect and the number of times of manufactured component (col. 13 lines 18-20); calculating statistics which relate to said defect automatically; and outputting said calculated statistics (col. 12 lines 59-60); wherein the defect information includes at least one of defect rates and rates with out defects (e.g. claim 51); further comprising the steps of: inputting the at least one defect phenomena for each machine into the memory at a quality assurance station, wherein said quality assurance station has a quality assurance identifier, and wherein the quality assurance station is linked to the machine number (col. 12 line 59 – col. 13 line 20).

Regarding claims 1, 5-8, 16, 17, and 22, Thiel et al. does not specifically disclose inputting a business function identifier into the memory, wherein the business function identifier identifies the party responsible for resolving at least one defect phenomena; inputting a resolving method for the at least one defect phenomena; wherein the resolving method is selected from a list of pre-stored resolving methods; wherein the selected resolving method is stored in the memory for later use; replacing a defective component with a new component by implementation of the resolving method; selecting designating stations among said responsible business functions to send message through said network to said selected responsible business functions; and selecting at least one of said business functions to see messages that are sent from said selected stations.

However, Goss discloses a method for assembly of computer systems in a build-to-order environment comprising: inputting a business function identifier into the memory, wherein the business function identifier identifies the party responsible for resolving at least one defect phenomena; inputting a resolving method for the at least one defect phenomena; wherein the resolving method is selected from a list of pre-stored resolving methods; wherein the selected resolving method is stored in the memory for later use; replacing a defective component with a new component by implementation of the resolving method; selecting designating stations among said responsible business functions to send message through said network to said selected responsible business functions; and selecting at least one of said business functions to see messages that are sent from said selected stations (e.g. col. 6 lines 29-53, col. 7 line 66 – col. 8 line 42, col. 9 line 51-63).

Thiel et al. and Goss are analogous art because they both pertain to monitoring and tracking control in manufacturing and component assembly environments. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Thiel et al. with Goss in order accurately locate the cause of the defects disclosed in Thiel et al. and to efficiently repair the defect or replace the defective component, as taught by Goss.

5. Claim 21 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Thiel et al. in view of Goss as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Hopkins et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,507,765. Thiel et al. as modified by Goss does not specifically disclose the steps of: inputting a second machine identifier into the memory, wherein the second

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machine identifier is assigned to each machine and is different from the first machine identifier; counting an input quantity at a production station based on the stored first machine identifier and an output quantity from a second production station based on the stored second machine identifier; and generating a work-in-process number from at least the input quantity and the output quantity. However, Hopkins et al. discloses a computer integrated manufacturing control system comprising fixed bar code scanners each associated with a processing machine for reading a bar code on each item that enters or leaves a particular processing machine for work-in-process tracking (e.g. col. 5 lines 46-58). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Thiel et al. in view of Goss with Hopkins et al. since Hopkins et al. teaches that this feature can increase oversight and control of the manufacturing process by tracking and making a data record of all relevant manufacturing activities.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Saka et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,396,432

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ryan A. Jarrett whose telephone number is (703) 308-4739. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30-6:00 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Leo Picard can be reached on (703) 308-0538. The fax phone numbers for

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the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 746-7239 for regular communications and (703) 746-7238 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

raj
August 29, 2003

 9-3-03
ALBERT W. PALADINI
PRIMARY EXAMINER